

Kingstonian 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1

A GLARING goalkeeping error by Kingstonian's McAndrew Johnson on Tuesday night let in Micky Holifield for another matchwinner—and, in a stroke, gifted Wycombe their sixth consecutive Isthmian League victory.

As against Leytonstone last Saturday, Wanderers' number ten turned up on the right spot at the right moment.

Barry Davies slapped over a corner off the right; Johnson allowed it to slip his grasp; the ball fell at Micky's feet; and he smartly scored to retain Wycombe's 100 per cent record.

DISSATISFIED

Twelve points from six games

is a resounding record in mathematical terms. But those looking and waiting for some championship standard football to match were again left somewhat dissatisfied.

The Blues improved slightly on their mistake-riddled showing versus the Stones. Not enough, however, to prevent Ks making it another tough, tight 90 minutes.

Derek Gamblin's return after recovering from a hamstring injury gave Wanderers extra control at the back. His cultured distribution out of defence had a settling effect on the team as a whole.

Gerry Olsen though was the outstanding player from a purely defensive viewpoint. And for the first 30 minutes at least this proved an important factor.

Skipped by ex-Wanderer Ted Powell, Ks forced the visitors back for a good deal of part one.

DEFENSIVE GLUT

They included seven defenders — four recognised full backs, two sweepers, and a centre half — however, and not unnaturally suffered for their lack of strikers once in arrears.

Their gamble looked particularly risky as Wycombe hit back strongly towards the interval. And once Holifield had supplied the vital 52nd minute breakthrough, the Blues readily dictated play.

Indeed eager Kingstonian never truly rated in the same class as their visitors.

A goalmouth scramble developed after 28 minutes when Johnson missed the flight of a Larry Pritchard free kick. Both Grose and Preston hacked the ball off the line after Delaney had headed forward.

Pritchard, perhaps Wycombe's top player on the night, recovered well after losing possession temporarily in the 42nd minute. He managed to put over a cross, but Keith Searle touched it just wide.

ACTIVE

In common with this season's trend, Searle looked active while Holifield showed more in flashes — both busy but neither enjoying much luck.

Tony Amos gave a quiet test to his suspect thigh as substitute for the surprisingly out of touch Davies, while the Blues continued to develop their football.

Ks now had no choice other than to forego their defensive policy. But, as before, they gave too little support to lively Trevor Waughman — so obviously anxious to score against the club which released him a fortnight earlier.

For the most part, John Maskell spent an underworked evening, and remains the only unbeaten Isthmian goalkeeper.

Most dangerous moment for Wycombe came in the 78th minute. Maskell's quick action saved the situation, however. He smothered the ball on the goal-line with Preston and Waughman both trying to plant home an equaliser.

Another former Blue, Iain

MacLean, offered one of his specialised long range drives seven minutes from time. But a Kingstonian colleague accidentally blocked it away, and Wycombe finished narrow, yet deserved winners.

KINGSTONIAN: Johnson; MacLean, Grose, Powell, Preston, Shacklock, Adaway, Kelsall, Waughman, Pentecost, Newman. Sub.: Roach (not used).

WYCOMBE: Maskell; Birdseye, Olsen, Delaney, Gamblin, Davies (sub.: Amos, 57 mins.), Williams, Pritchard; Hutchinson, Searle, Holifield.

Referee: R. S. Lewis (Bourne-mouth).

Half-time: 0-0. Goalscorers: Wycombe—Holifield (52).